

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the production of a lighting element comprising at least one luminescent diode and an inserted light-guiding body, which is arranged in front of ~~the said~~ luminescent diode in the direction of the exit of the main light, wherein the respective luminescent diodes are connected to the inserted light-guiding body by an injection molding process with transparent plastic, the method comprising:

positioning the luminescent diode in spaced relationship to the inserted light-guiding body, the space therebetween defining a gap;

injecting the transparent plastic around at least 50% of the surface of the light-emitting diodes ~~is covered by the transparent plastic during injection molding, ;~~

forcing the transparent plastic around the inserted light-guiding body to define a wall having a defined wall thickness; and

maintaining ~~that the maximum~~ the wall thickness of the transparent plastic to a thickness less than or equal to ~~does not exceed~~ three-times the gap ~~minimum wall thickness of the transparent plastic.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the lower edge of the transparent plastic engaging radially around the surface of the light-emitting diode ends below a plane, which runs normal to the centerline of the luminescent diode and through the center of gravity of the light-emitting chip of this luminescent diode.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the luminescent diode and the inserted light-guiding body are located on a common centerline, wherein the centerline runs through the center of gravity of the light-emitting chip of the luminescent diode.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the lighting element is made of several individual lighting elements arranged adjoining to one another.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, characterized in that the centerlines of the individual lighting elements are arranged parallel to one another or intersect in an at least partially fan-like manner at one or more points located behind the lighting element or intersect at a short distance.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the inserted light-guiding body includes a concave recess towards the diode.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that a light lens for designing a main light exit surface is molded into the combination of the diode, the inserted light-guiding body and the injected layer in an additional injection molding step.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, characterized in that the light lens is a diffusing screen.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, characterized in that the inserted light-guiding body has a different color than that of the diffusing screen.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one substance is admixed to the material of at least one component, wherein said substance emits a light of another wavelength when excited by the light emitted from the chip.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the luminescent diodes are fixed on a circuit board before the coating by injection molding.

12. (Currently Amended) A lighting element comprising:
a light source for emitting light;
a light-guiding body spaced a predetermined distance from said light source forming a gap between said light source and said light-guiding body, said light-guiding body receives for
~~receiving~~ the emitted light and for focusing the emitted light to create focused light; and
a layer of plastic disposed between said light source and said light-guiding body to position said light source relative to said light-guiding body, said layer of plastic covering said light-guiding body to form a wall defining a thickness less than or equal to three-times said

predetermined distance between said light-guiding body and ~~covering at least fifty percent of~~
said light source.

13. (Currently Amended) A lighting element as set forth in claim 12 wherein said layer of plastic covers at least fifty percent of said light source ~~defines a wall thickness having a maximum wall thickness and a minimum wall thickness.~~

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A lighting element as set forth in claim 13 ~~14~~ wherein said layer of plastic includes a lower edge disposed about and engaging said light source.

16. (Previously Presented) A lighting element as set forth in claim 15 wherein said light source and said light-guiding body are coaxial.

17. (Previously Presented) A lighting element as set forth in claim 16 wherein said light source is a light emitting diode.

18. (Previously Presented) A lighting element as set forth in claim 17 wherein said light emitting diode and said light-guiding body are coaxial.

19. (Previously Presented) A lighting element as set forth in claim 18 wherein said light-guiding body includes a concave recess disposed adjacent to and coaxial with said light emitting diode.

20. (Previously Presented) A lighting element as set forth in claim 19 including a light lens for diffusing said focused light.

21. (Previously Presented) A lighting element as set forth in claim 20 wherein said light lens includes diffusing screen.

22. (Previously Presented) A lighting element as set forth in claim 21 wherein said light-guiding body defines a first color and said diffusing screen defines a second color such that said first color differs from said second color.

23. (Previously Presented) A lighting element as set forth in claim 22 including an integrated circuit board wherein said light emitting diode is secured thereto.

24. (Previously Presented) A lighting element as set forth in claim 23 wherein said light-guiding body includes flattened lateral surfaces.